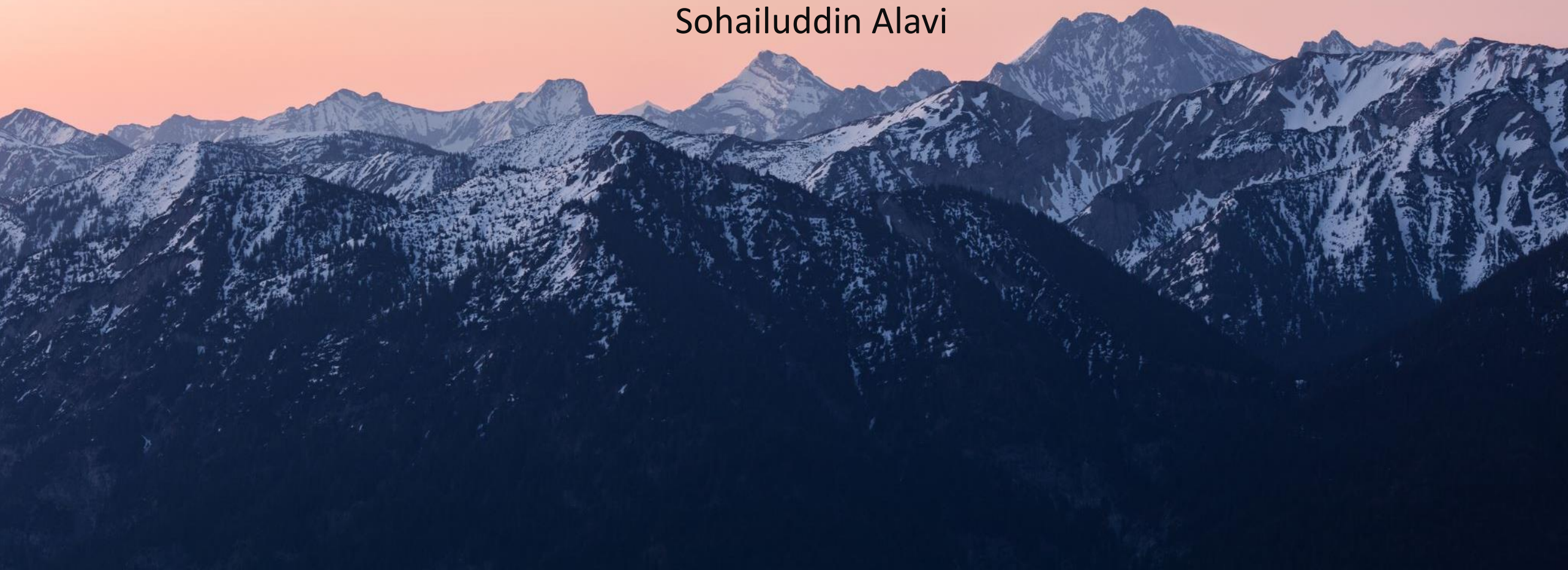


Diversity of Ideas

Right to Hold and Express Views

Sohailuddin Alavi



Divine Concept

- There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the right path has become distinct from the wrong path. [لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ] There is no compulsion in religion. 2:256
- And do not insult those they invoke other than Allah , lest they insult Allah in enmity without knowledge. 6:108
- Moral
 - While every person has the freedom to believe according to his will, it is incumbent upon people of faith and others not to insult each other's religion
 - A person has the freedom of expressing his belief but does not have the freedom to act aggressively against others' religion.



Why is Islam Subjected to Hatred?

- Islam is the purest monotheistic faith that pronounces oneness of Almighty, which is not acceptable to the non-believers (rebellious)
 - “When Allah alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter contract with bitterness, but when deities apart from Allah are mentioned, they are filled with joy.” Quran 39:45
- The Jew Rabbis and Christian Priests know that Islam is the right path and Muhammad *pbuh* is the last messenger, but they accept not out of jealousy of the last messenger *pbuh*
 - “Jews and the Christians each say, “We are the children of Allah and His most beloved!” Quran, 5:18
- Bias is indoctrinated amongst non-Muslims as a strategy to keep them from viewing Islam objectively and accepting it. Today Muslim majority reinforces the bias when they themselves live not Islam in their lives in totality
 - O you who have believed, enter into Islam completely [and perfectly]. Quran 2:208
- Muslims often look down at the believers of other religions and wish to conquer them. Instead, if Muslims had been guiding them to their eternal success with Hikmah.
 - Invite to the way of Allah with wisdom and good instruction [Glad tidings] and argue with them in a way that is best [with reasoning]. Quran 16:125



Why is Quran Subjected to Disrespect?

- It is a manifestation of blatant denial of Almighty and His religion – Earlier scriptures of Judaism and Christianity were no different from Quran, but the truth was changed which now Quran revealed
 - “They want to extinguish the light (divine truth) of Allah with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His light, even though the disbelievers (rebellious) dislike it.” Quran, 61.8
- Quran poses direct threat to the world order
- Lack of objective appreciation – world view of Quran is that it is a collection of satanic verses (nauzobillah)
- Bias – People find it difficult to accept that Quran is Divine, and their books are not.





Exercising Freedom

- In the perspective of Divine guidance, one needs to exercise his freedom by the following standards; -
- Do's
 - To have an opinion
 - To express openly one's opinion
 - To express feelings (of excitement and hurt)
 - To let others, have their opinion
 - To let others, openly express their opinion
 - To let others express feelings (of excitement and hurt)

Exercising Freedom

- Don'ts
 - Should not force your opinion onto others; solicited reasoning is however okay.
 - Should not incite hate, anger, and disrespect against each other.
 - Should not disgrace, insult and discard others' opinion; it will be considered aggression against others' freedom.
 - Should not let others violate your right to freedom; do not act passively.





Divine Warning

- Do they not know that whoever opposes Allah and His Messenger will be in the Fire of Hell forever? That is the ultimate disgrace. 9:63
- The hypocrites fear that a sûrah should be revealed about them, exposing what is in their hearts. Say, O' Prophet, "Keep mocking! Allah will bring to light what you fear." 9:64
- If you question them, they will certainly say, "We were only talking idly and joking around." Say, "Was it Allah, His revelations, and His Messenger that you ridiculed?" 9:65